

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 25, 1904, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks, West Washington, D.C. November 25, 1904. Mr. dear Alec:

So you consider today as your Thanksgiving Day — I really never knew before just which day you kept, my birthday or Thanksgiving Day as we were engaged on both days. Thank you for the telegram about the chickens nevertheless.

I wish you could have seen Mamma give away her turkeys. She distributed fifteen and gave them herself to each one. Bissett took up the big fat bird — monsters every one — and put it in a clean sheet of paper and Mamma held it out with both arms and a pleasant word. We went in and decorated the church with the ripened fruits of the earth, big red and yellow pumpkins, squashes and sheaves of corn — oranges, apples and grapes. After service the young girls came forward and gathered them into baskets which went to hospitals and to out patients. Katie, Mamma's maid, says there are more people praying for Mamma in Washington than anybody else. Mamma is so personal in her gifts of love. Almost daily letters come thanking her for such little uncostly deeds of kindness.

Mamma, Daisy and I dined with Bert and Elsie and both children, and they were really very good. Here's the mail with two fat letters from you — I'll stop to open them.

Later. I did have a lovely budget, many thanks. I am so glad your father is better, but I doubt whether the special through car would pay. I think Uncle Richard gave it up as there were so many delays 2 and annoyances. About the Macraes, my feeling is guided by the condition of our bank balance — it is apparently very large, but what it will be when we settle the estate is another matter. I fear it will be the reverse side and I would rather come out square first. As regards conditions on the place, well I know there is a lot of bad

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management and unnecessary expenditure to repair loss through this and carelessness, but we can't live on Beinn Bhreagh without certain things and I don't see why we can't have them. Our income from Bell alone this year was 31,000 and 8,000 does not seem too much to spend on the place where we live 7 or 8 months. I should never be content with fewer horses than we have or less milk and I think our carriages are hardly respectable.

I think your father needs rubbing, he can't but be weak from non use of his limbs and yet be perfectly well. Here's mail.

Much love, Mabel.